

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SAA-01 SSM-03 IO-13 A-01
AID-05 CCO-00 HA-05 OC-06 OMB-01 OPR-02 CA-01
MCT-02 SCS-06 SY-05 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NEAE-00 /123 W
-----011656 091132Z /13

O P 090930Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9139
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4573

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: AUGUST 9, 1978 - 1200 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 4540 (DTG 081106Z AUG 78)

1. KHADDAM VISITS FRANJIYAH.

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A. SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABDEL HALIM KHADDAM AND SYRIAN CHIEF
OF STAFF HIKMAT SHIHABI PAID AN UNEXPECTED VISIT ON FORMER PRESI-
DENT SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH IN ZGHARTA ON AUGUST 8 (SEPTEL). KHADDAM
TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE (ADF) WOULD NOT
LEAVE LEBANON EVEN AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF ITS MANDATE, UNLESS IT
HAD "ACCOMPLISHED ITS MISSION," ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT-LE JOUR.

B. KHADDAM ALSO VIOLENTLY CRITICIZED FACTIONS AND GROUPS CARRY-
ING ARMS AGAINST THE LEBANESE STATE (I.E. THE NATIONAL LIBERAL
AND PHALANGE PARTIES).

2. SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT.

A. THE RELATIVE CALM WHICH HAS PREVAILED IN THE EAST BEIRUT AREA
SINCE AUGUST 7 WAS BROKEN FROM ABOUT 0400 HOURS TO 0600 HOURS ON
AUGUST 9, WHEN THERE WAS HEAVY SHELLING. THREE OR FOUR SHELLS,
APPARENTLY OVERSHOTS, STRUCK BISHARA AL-KHOURY STREET, JUST WEST
OF THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THE TWO HALVES OF THE CITY. EAST
BEIRUT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET SINCE, HOWEVER, AND AS OF 1200
HOURS LOCAL, THERE IS ONLY SPORADIC SMALL ARMS FIRE AND EXPLOSIONS.

B. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR SAID THAT AT LEAST 100,000 PEOPLE HAVE FLED
EAST BEIRUT, MANY OF THEM LIVING UNDER BRIDGES, IN TENTS ALONG
THE ROADS, OR IN CONVENTS IN THE MOUNTAINS. LIFE IN WEST BEIRUT
REMAINS GENERALLY NORMAL WITH SHOPS OPEN AND TRAFFIC CIRCULATING.
CARS ARE STILL CROSSING BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT ALTHOUGH THE
NUMBER IS GREATLY REDUCED.

3. BATTALION STILL STOPPED.

A. A LEBANESE ARMY BATTALION STILL REMAINS HALTED IN KAWKABA,
BUT CHRISTIAN MILITIAS HAVE NOT FIRED ON IT SINCE THE EVENING OF
AUGUST 7. UNIFIL COMMANDER EMANUEL ERSKINE AND DEPUTY COMMANDER
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JEAN-CLAUDE CUQ VISITED THE LEBANESE BATTALION AT KAWKABA ON
AUGUST 8.

B. ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, THE CABINET AT ITS WEEKLY
MEETING ON AUGUST 9 MAY DECIDE TO CALL FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION, BECAUSE THE GOL
ESTIMATED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE
TO GET THE ISRAELIS TO FACILITATE THE BATTALION'S DEPLOYMENT TO
TIBNIN.

4. NATIONAL MOVEMENT DELEGATION TO BAGHDAD.

A DELEGATION OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT LEFT BEIRUT FOR BAGHDAD ON
ON AUGUST 9. ITS MEMBERS INCLUDING COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF GEORGE
HAWI, COMMUNIST ACTION ORGANIZATION CHIEF MOHSIN IBRAHIM, AND AL-
MURABITOUN OFFICIAL SAMIR SABBAGH. THE DELEGATION WILL ATTEMPT
TO MEDIATE THE BITTER DISPUTE BETWEEN IRAQ AND THE PLO, L'ORIENT-
LE JOUR SAID.

5. PEACE SHIP.

ABIE NATHAN'S PEACE SHIP ARRIVED OFF BEIRUT AUGUST 8 AND IS

HOPING FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER THE PORT. THE BOAT CONTAINS
MEDICAL SUPPLIES AS WELL AS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN.

6. SONIC BOOMS.

TWO ISRAELI AIRCRAFT BROKE THE SOUND BARRIER AT BEIRUT AT ABOUT
1445 HOURS ON AUGUST 8.
PARKER

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